

## ATC Press Release

## ATC Commissioner Takes Zero-Tolerance Stance Against Businesses that Service Minors

Baton Rouge: Louisiana Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control (ATC) Commissioner, Troy Hebert recently assessed strong penalties to two North Louisiana businesses found guilty of enabling minors' accessibility to alcohol and tobacco products. In one judgment, the Commissioner revoked all permits issued to AG Brothers Inc. dlbla Porterhouse Liquors as well as the premise that housed the business located at 1851 N. Washington Street, Bastrop, LA. In another judgment, the Commissioner ordered a 30 day suspension of the alcohol permit and \$4,000 fine to Cuz's Place LLC dlbla Cuz's Place (aka "Boondocks") located at 5343 Hwy. 888, Newellton, LA.

The revocation decision for Porterhouse Liquors was based on evidence that the business routinely sold alcoholic beverage and tobacco products to juveniles as young as 14 and 16 years old and had a reputation as a place where minors could go to illegally obtain alcohol and tobacco products. The revocation follows an emergency suspension of the alcohol license ordered by Commissioner Hebert due to charges including 4<sup>th</sup> offense, 4 counts sale of alcohol to a minor and 2 counts sale of tobacco to a minor.

The suspension and fine issued to Cuz's Place stems from an ATC investigation into a June 26, 2011 alcohol related fatality involving a 16 year old. Evidence obtained proved that the 16 year old male, along with at least four (4) other individuals under the age of eighteen (18) were allowed in the bar. The 16 year old was allowed to consume alcoholic beverages and purchase tobacco products at the bar on the night of the fatal accident.

When questioned about the severity of his decisions Commissioner Hebert stated, "As Commissioner of ATC, I have a responsibility to protect the safety of our youth by ensuring that locations such as these are not allowed to operate. Possessing an alcoholic beverage permit is a privilege and I want to make it very clear that permit holders who target and serve minors will lose that privilege."

For more information, please contact:
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